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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 086502

STADIS

FOR AMBASSADOR AND DCM ONLY

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AMGT AR CI PA UY
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

ARA/SC ASDAR FOR MARCH 18.

(LOU) ARGENTINA: ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING. BUENOS AIRES REPORTS THE DEATH TOLL STANDS AT ELEVEN WITH UPWARD OF 250

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INJURED. THE GOA HAS ISSUED STATEMENTS CONDEMNING THE ATTACK AND PLEDGING A FULL EFFORT TO APPREHEND THOSE RESPONSIBLE. THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS IS PREPARING TO SEND A TEAM OF EXPLOSIVES EXPERTS TO B.A. IN RESPONSE TO A GOA REQUEST. (FARRAR)

(LOU) ARGENTINA: AIRPORT SECURITY. THE GOA HAS ASKED FAA TO DELAY ITS RE-INSPECTION OF EZEIZA UNTIL NEXT MONDAY. THE DELAY PROVIDES TIME FOR THE SECURITY SITUATION TO RETURN TO NORMAL AND FOR THE GOA TO ENSURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
DATE/CASE ID: 14 DEC 2009 200906077

THAT THIS TIME PROPER SECURITY PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE WHEN THE FAA ARRIVES. (FARRAR)

(C) PARAGUAY: LIBERAL PARTY CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT. DOMINGO LAINO, DE FACTO LIBERAL PARTY LEADER, HAS ANNOUNCED HE WILL RUN FOR PRESIDENT. AS THE MOST WIDELY RECOGNIZED OPPOSITION FIGURE, LAINO WILL CLEARLY BE A FORCE IN THE UPCOMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, HE FACES AN UPHILL BATTLE GIVEN DIVISIONS WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY AND THE COLORADOS' SUPERIOR POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. HE CAN HOPE THE COLORADOS EVENTUALLY CHOOSE TO RUN A RIGHT-WING CANDIDATE LIKE LUIS ARGANA WHO WOULD DRIVE MODERATES IN THE PARTY TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES. BUT A COLORADO WITH BROAD APPEAL LIKE FRUTOS VAESKENS MIGHT BE HARD TO BEAT.

(C) URUGUAY: LACALLE'S SECOND YEAR SCORE CARD. AMBASSADOR BROWN GIVES TOP GRADES TO PRESIDENT LACALLE'S FIRST TWO YEARS IN OFFICE FOR FOSTERING ECONOMIC PROGRESS IN THE FACE OF STRONG POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO HIS ECONOMIC REFORM PROGRAM. THE INFLATION RATE, THOUGH STILL HIGH AT

83 PERCENT, DIPPED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THE 1990'S 130 PERCENT, AND ECONOMIC GROWTH INCREASED FROM UNDER ONE TO 2.5 PERCENT. (COLLOTON)

(C) URUGUAY: LACALLE DEMANDS REFORMS. LACALLE DEVOTED MOST OF HIS ANNUAL MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT THIS WEEK TO HIS ECONOMIC PROGRAM. HE URGED QUICK ACTION ON PENDING REFORM LEGISLATION, PARTICULARLY OVERHAUL OF THE VERY COSTLY SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AND SAID HE WILL INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO LIMIT GOVERNMENT SEVERANCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS. LACALLE BROKE WITH USUAL PRACTICE AND USED TELEVISION TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO THE PUBLIC. (COLLOTON)

(LOU) CHILE: AYLWIN VISIT MEETING. WE MET WITH CHILEAN EMBASSY TEAM WORKING THE AYLWIN STATE VISIT TO REVIEW NOTIONAL SCHEDULE. WE UNDERSCORED THE NEED TO MAKE EARLY REQUEST FOR AYLWIN MEETINGS WITH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS AND TO FOCUS SOON ON INVITATIONS LISTS FOR WHITE HOUSE AND STATE MEETINGS/FUNCTIONS. THE CHILEANS WANT A HALF-HOUR POST-LUNCH MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, BUT WE URGED INSTEAD THAT A BRIEF PRE-LUNCH CALL MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE GIVEN THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD ATTEND THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING WHERE MOST OF THE BUSINESS WOULD BE

DONE. AYLWIN PLANS TO SPEND FOUR HOURS ON THE HILL MEETING WITH COMMITTEES BUT THE CHILEANS HINTED THEY MIGHT STILL PURSUE THE IDEA OF A JOINT SESSION SPEECH. (PEREZ)
BAKER

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